(b) the number of organizations which furnished utilization certificates and were sanctioned further assistance and the number of organization which did not furnish utilization certificates and were denied assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Two voluntary organizations were given financial assistance during the year 2001-2002 under the "Scheme for Improvement of Medical Services". The utilization certificates from these organizations have not yet become due. The "Scheme for Improvement of Medical Services" and the "Special Health Scheme for Rural Areas" have since been discontinued and, therefore, the question of sanction or denial of further assistance does not arise.

Erosion in professional standards of doctors

1957. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an erosion in professional standards of doctors working in Government hospitals;

(b) if not, the number of deaths due to medical negligence in the country during last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of measures taken to avoid/curb such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In so far as the Central Government Hospitals, *viz.* Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC and Associated Hospitals are concerned, there is no erosion in professional standards of doctors working in these hospitals and no incidents of death due to medical negligence in the last three years has been recorded. However, Medical Committee of each hospital meets at regular interval to review the mortality.

Safe injection practice

1958. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate policy for safe injection practice keeping in mind Joint Statement by WHO-UNICEF-

UNFPA in 1997 urging all countries to switch to auto-disable syringes by 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have issued guidelines for use of auto-disable syringe in Hepatitis-B vaccination campaign;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to do so now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is no proposal as yet to make use of auto-disposable syringes mandatory for all injections.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) On the advice of World Health Organization-UNICEF-UNFPA a pilot project has been launched under the Universal Immunization Programme for the introduction of Hepatitis-B Vaccine in 15 cities and 32 districts. The injectable vaccine will be given with auto-disable syringes under the said project.

Two-child norms

1959. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring any change in the Population Policy by introducing the two-child norm;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the number of States which have introduced their own Population Policy in violation of the Central Policy and the details of incentives, disincentives and coercive measures adopted by those States;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has adopted two-child norm as part of its Population Control Programme;

(e) whether Government propose to unify the Population Control Programme applicable to all States; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereto?